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mittee suggested a few unimportant changes in the method adopted last year at Philadelphia, and which had been practised by the members of the association with such success during the past year.

Dr. H. W. Wiley presented the report of the committee on the method of estimating potash. The first part of the report was devoted to a review of all the different methods of estimating potash which had been proposed during the last twenty years. After a discussion of the merits of the various methods examined, the committee decided that none of them was superior to the method adopted by the association at its Philadelphia meeting. They recommended, therefore, that with certain slight modifications, consisting more especially of the insertion of the details of the manipulation, The Philadelphia method should be continued. The only important changes which were introduced were in directing the treatment of the sample with hot water, for the extraction of the potash, instead of water acidulated with hydrochloric acid; in the addition of a small portion of oxalic acid to facilitate the conversion of nitrates into carbonates; in the recommendation to abandon the washing out of the double chloride by hot water after its first weighing, a process which, by experience, had been found to be unnecessary; and in recommending the continuance of the factor 30.56 for the conversion of  $K_2PtCl_6$  to  $KCl$  instead of the factor 30.67, which would be the proper one if the atomic weight of platinum, as determined by Seubert, be the correct one. The committee, in making this recommendation, did not wish to be considered as in any way criticising the accuracy of Seubert's work. Prof. F. C. Clarke stated, that, in his opinion, 195 represented much more nearly the atomic weight of platinum than 197, and that, therefore, the larger of the two factors given above would be the more correct one for computing the amount of potassium chloride from the double platinic chloride. The report of the committee was adopted for the guidance of analysts during the coming year.

Mr. F. H. Gladding read a paper on a new method of estimating potash, which was ordered printed with the proceedings.

Mr. P. E. Chazal presented the report of the committee on determination of nitrogen. He stated that the committee was quite dissatisfied with the results of their work, and hoped that the association, without taking any action whatever, would refer the whole matter to another committee, to be presented at the next annual meeting. The recommendation was adopted.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, H. W. Wiley, Washington, D.C.; vice-president, C. W. Dabney, Raleigh, N.C.; secretary and treasurer, Clifford Richardson, Washington, D.C.

The following committees were also appointed: Executive committee in addition to the above officers,—H. A. Huston of Indiana, and W. J. Gascoyne of Virginia. On phosphoric acid: H. C. White of Georgia, E. H. Jenkins of Connecticut, W. C. Stubbs of Louisiana. On nitrogen: P. E. Chazal of

South Carolina, J. A. Myers of Mississippi, W. E. Moses of Tennessee. On potash: W. J. Gascoyne of Virginia, Clifford Richardson of Washington, N. W. Lord of Ohio.

The convention discussed the proposition of enlarging the scope of the association, and it was the unanimous opinion of all present that this should be done in harmony with recommendations made in the address of the commissioner. The association then adjourned to meet in Washington at the call of the executive committee in September, 1886.

#### THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AT SARATOGA.

Of the three hundred members of the association, about fifty attended the recent meeting (Sept. 8-10), in addition to those who played a more or less prominent part in its organization last year (*Science*, No. 86), there were present at one or more sessions, Goldwin Smith, Gen. Cullum, Washington Gladden, Henry Adams, Henry C. Adams, Eugene Schuyler, Rufus King, Professors Gurney, Andrews, James, and Cooman, Nathaniel Paine, S. S. Green, E. M. Barton, and Mrs. Lamb. The old officers were re-elected with the exception of George Bancroft, who took the place of Andrew D. White as president for the next meeting, and Professors Franklin B. Dexter and W. F. Allen, who succeeded to the places on the council left vacant by the retirement of Professors Tyler and Emerton. The finances of the association are in a flourishing condition, there being over a thousand dollars in the treasury at the close of the first year. The council elected the German historian Ranke, the first, and, for the present at least, its only honorary member.

The papers presented were mainly upon subjects connected with American history; and it is greatly to be desired, that the scope of the association's work should be enlarged, and that more essays should be presented dealing with European history. Apart from this, the most noticeable feature of the meeting was the great desire shown by the members to gather in small groups, and exchange ideas. This deserves encouragement; and it is hoped, that, at the next meeting, less time will be given to the reading of papers, and more opportunity be afforded for social intercourse.

President A. D. White opened the first session with some comments, or a syllabus of an essay on the influence of American ideas upon the French revolution. He was followed by Professor Goldwin Smith of Toronto, who endeavored to show by the history of Canada that the American revolution was a mistake, and that a peaceful separation, which time would have brought, would have been better. These two papers occupied the morning session. In the evening, Jeffrey R. Brackett, a graduate of Harvard, presented a report on certain studies of the institution of negro slavery, which he is now making at Johns Hopkins. He especially advocated the study of the blacks as a race, and laid particular stress upon the danger of

relying so implicitly upon the statute-books for data; as the mere fact of a law being among the statutes of a particular state is of little importance unless one knows whether the law was executed or not.

Mr. Justin Winsor then referred to an Italian portolano of the sixteenth century, which had recently been acquired by the Carter-Brown library of Providence, as probably the only specimen of an early sea-atlas now preserved in an American library. It has five maps showing the American continent, two of which illustrate the theory which made North America and Asia identical. The atlas resembles what is known as the Charles V. portolano, and is also like another now in the Riccordiana in Florence. The dates of these, as understood, led Mr. Winsor to place this new specimen somewhere between 1540 and 1550: and the condition of geographical knowledge shown in it comports with such a supposition, a due allowance for the errors and limitations always found in charts of so early a date being made. After, Mr. H. Tuttle of Cornell presented a long bibliography of materials for the history of the reign of Frederick the Great of Prussia, which have appeared since Carlyle wrote, and which may be considered as justifying a new life of that potentate. Professor Ephraim Emerton, in a ten-minute report on the value of Janssen's History of the German people during the reformation period, aroused considerable interest. President White agreed with Dr. Emerton as to the deceptive methods of presentation adopted by Janssen, and compared it to a history of the late civil war, in which the main accent should be laid upon a few over-fervid utterances of Garrison, Phillips, and Pillsbury; upon Mr. Seward's false prophecies, Mr. Lincoln's story-telling, the personal habits of some union generals, and the like. Prof. E. B. Andrews, while agreeing with the previous speakers, said that such books were useful as throwing a side-light upon the real character of the reformers and the reformation. In concluding, he warned all students who read German books, or who go to Germany to study, to beware of the dogmatic tone of many German historians. Professor Goldwin Smith also contributed to the discussion.

The next morning the Rev. Dr. M. C. Tyler read an abstract of a paper by the bishop of Missouri on 'The Louisiana purchase, and its influence upon the American system.' The abstract showed that the paper was one of great value; but as Mr. Henry Adams remarked, the subject was one that could be properly treated only in volumes, and not in a single essay, even so complete as the one just presented. He thought, however, that more stress should have been laid on the fact that the acquisition of Louisiana, by an extreme use of the treaty-making power, did, in fact, create a new union upon a broader basis than the original union as defined by the constitution of 1787. Judge Douglas Campbell and Mr. Rufus King followed in the discussion.

Mr. John Addison Porter then read an abstract of an essay, which will appear shortly in the Johns Hopkins' series, on the origin and administration of the city of Washington. Particular attention was

paid to a critical analysis of the 'Shepherd ring.' He added that the federal city and district owe their present names to the commissioners who served with Washington in planning the city.

The evening session was opened with a discussion of the problem of municipal government, until Mr. Schuyler declared, that, in his opinion, such discussions were hardly within the province of an historical association. This was followed by a number of reports; and then Mr. Irving Elting of Poughkeepsie, the first announced speaker of the evening, read a well-written abstract of a paper on the Dutch-village communities of the Hudson River, which he thought exhibited, during colonial times, many of the peculiarities of the primitive German mark. The towns of Hurley and New Paltz were instanced as typical communities. In the former, the common lands were divided so as to give mere residents, as well as free-holders, a share in the allotment; while in New Paltz, the ancient institution of the 'Twelve men' survived even into the present century. The remainder of this session was occupied with a discussion of the origin of *vlie*, *bowery*, and kindred words. The latter, Mr. Elting said, meant simply 'home-lot.' By this time it was so late that the association adjourned, after having disposed of but one number of the programme as announced on the posters.

The next morning Dr. Josiah Royce gave the substance of a chapter from his forthcoming work on California. He demonstrated by documents which have been discovered by Mr. H. H. Bancroft and himself, that the original purpose of our government was to get California from Mexico through peaceful intrigue, and by the act of its inhabitants. To this plan the operations of Captain Fremont were in actual opposition; although the speaker did not in this paper undertake to criticise Captain Fremont's acts, nor to explain them. After some remarks by Mr. W. A. Mowry, on the influence which the acts of the agents of the Hudson-bay company may have had on our government in its dealings with the Californians, Dr. J. F. Jameson of Johns Hopkins read a paper advocating the more careful study of the constitutional and political history of the several states. Dr. E. Channing followed with a few suggestions as to the value of the study of the historical geography of the territory comprised within the present limits of the United States.

Our reporter was not present at the evening session, but, through the kindness of Mr. E. Schuyler, is able to give a brief account of the latter's paper on 'Materials for American history in foreign archives.' It seems that the increased study of original documents during the last fifty years has led to great reforms in the management of the European state-paper offices, which are now well arranged, and easily accessible to students. Various nations, especially England and France, have filled in the gaps in their own collections by copies from papers preserved elsewhere. The reverse of all this Mr. Schuyler declared to be true of our own state department, which has the distinction of keeping its archives less accessible than those of any European nation, — an assertion which was borne out by Dr. Royce's relation of

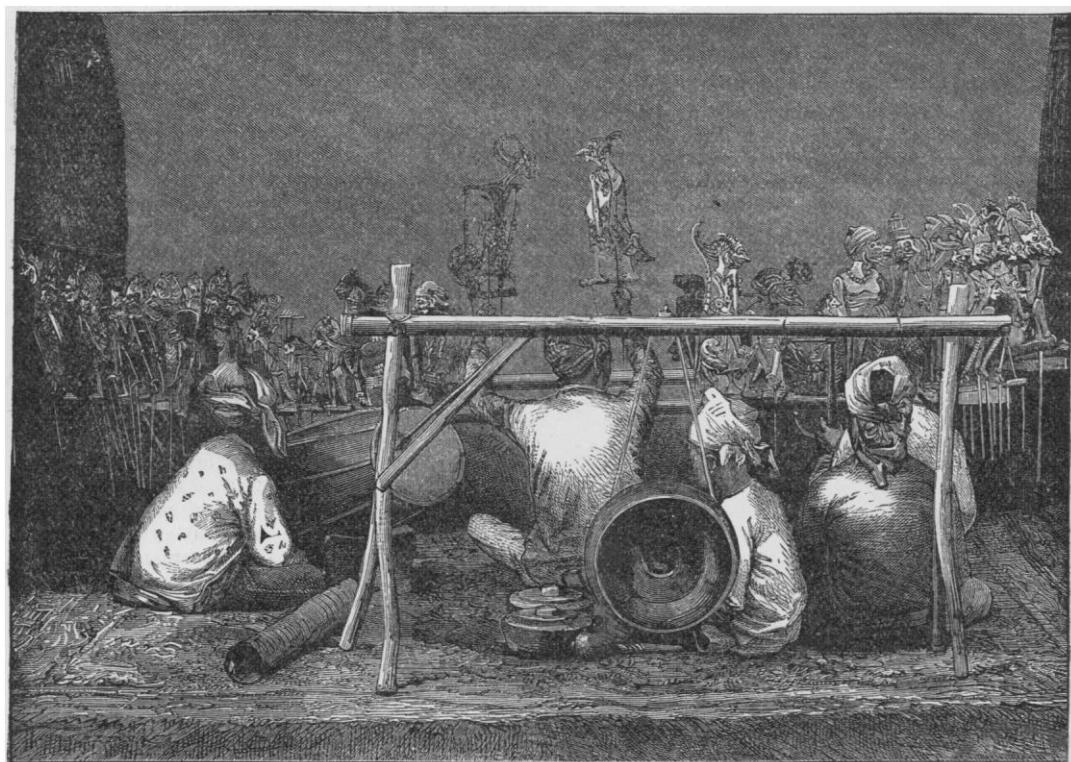
his experience while searching for the well known 'Larkin despatch.' In closing, Mr. Schuyler declared, that if the papers now unpublished, and hidden from the world in these great foreign store-houses, were printed, the history of the American revolution, and of the early years of our country, would have to be entirely re-written. He asked the association to petition the government to catalogue all papers accessible in foreign countries, and to transcribe and print those that are of importance.

#### PUPPET-SHOWS IN JAVA.

THE Javanese take great delight in theatrical performances. One form of these is the Wajang, or pan-

stage properties, and a jar in which incense is burned before the performance, and a copper basin to receive offerings to the spirits (which consist of food, of which it is thought the spirits eat the immaterial part, although in fact the Dalang or one of the musicians takes it home).

The puppets are about two feet high, and are made of very thick buffalo-leather, or carved from wood, painted all sorts of colors, and sometimes gilded or silvered, those highly ornamented representing people of rank. Their forms are hideous, and have nothing human about them. The arms, which are movable by little rods attached to the extremities, and hands, are very long and narrow; the face is pointed, and resembles the beak of a bird (some, however, are round, and decorated with a huge nose



BEHIND THE SCENES AT A PUPPET-SHOW IN JAVA.

times, where the actors are represented by puppets moved by a man called the Dalang, who recites all the parts. For the performances a curtain is erected, on which the shadows of the puppets are thrown. The women are placed on one side of this curtain, the Dalang on the other. At his right sit the men, and at his left the young people. By this arrangement, only the men see the puppets directly: the women see only the shadows. Behind the Dalang is the orchestra; and around him are scattered his

Translated from *La nature*.

and teeth); the eyes are either narrow and long, or large and round; and some have an enormous stomach, while others are hump-backed. These forms explain themselves; for they can only represent conventional types well known to the people, whose characteristics are exaggerated in order the easier to be recognized.

The origin of the puppets, according to the Javanese, is as follows: One morning, while a woman was engaged in washing her rice, she saw the trunk of a tree floating toward her. She tried to push it